

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

OCTOBER 2004

E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
800/842-2610, extension 3745 Mary Ann Wilson, Director www.hud.gov/virginia

HIGHER FHA LIMITS OKAYED IN HAMPTON ROADS

HUD has okayed a 31 percent increase in FHA's single-family mortgage insurance limits in the Hampton Roads metropolitan area, effective immediately. The higher FHA mortgage insurance limits cover home sales in the entire Hampton Roads/Tidewater metropolitan area, including Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and Isle of Wight, Gloucester, James City, Mathews, Surry and York counties in Virginia as well as Currituck County in North Carolina. As a result, the FHA mortgage insurance limit on one-family homes will rise from \$217,550 to \$285,093; the FHA limit on two-family homes will rise from \$245,030 to \$321,105; the FHA limit on three-family homes will rise from \$297,700 to \$390,127; and the FHA limit on four-family homes will rise from \$343,500 to \$450,157. In the past decade, FHA has insured some 117,700 mortgages in the Hampton Roads area with a total dollar value of \$10.5 billion. Higher FHA loan limits will not cost the government any money, because the FHA Insurance Fund is fully supported by premiums paid by borrowers who receive FHA insurance. The FHA increase led VHDA to raise its price limits on its first-time homebuyer loans.

DHCD HONORED

Calling it an "outstanding" example of "how CDBG works," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has selected the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Self-Help Water & Sewer Program for one of 14 Excellence in Community Development Awards issued as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the CDBG program. With more than \$6 million in CDBG funds, the program has used volunteers to lay over 100 miles of pipes connecting 2,800 Virginians in 30 communities to water and sewer service. DHCD estimates that volunteers have saved more than \$10 million. Accepting the award were DHCD Director Bill Shelton and Jimmy Wallace who runs the program.

DO IT TODAY!

Beginning with HUD's 2005 SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) virtually every applicant for HUD competitive grant funds will have to electronically via www.grants.gov. Are you e-ready to e-pete? Have you visited the grants.gov Website? Have you registered at grants.gov to receive daily notifications of Federal grant opportunities? Have you gotten a DUNS number? Have you installed a Pure Edge Viewer on your computer? Have you signed-up with the Central Contract Registry? Have you registered with the Credential Provider? Are you signed-on as an Authorized Organization Representative? Get e-Ready to e-Pete. And do it today!

ENERGIZE!

Have some fun, cut your energy costs and just plain re-charge your batteries at the free Virginia Energy Fair on Friday, October 8th, and Saturday, October 9th, at the Virginia Science Museum in Richmond. Find out more at www.vaenergyfair.org

BRIEF BRIEFS

HUD Secretary Jackson announces \$3.4 million in Lead Abatement/Healthy Homes grants to national United Parents Against Lead in Richmond, Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk and Edenspace Systems in Chantilly. . . Fiscal Year 2005 final Fair Market Rents now online at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html>. . . September 17th *Federal Register* invites comments – due November 16th – on proposed rule on "the removal by HUD, for good cause, of a real estate broker from HUD's qualified selling broker list and the deactivation of the broker's NAID". . . USDA/Rural Development in Virginia says in fiscal year 2004 it guaranteed more than 800 Section 502 mortgages worth a record \$95 million. . . More than 160 attend City of Winchester's "housing summit". . . Appalachian Regional Commission sets October 13th and 14th for Building on Appalachia's Assets conference in Abingdon. . . Home Depot Foundation awards Community Housing Partners \$25,000 "green building" grant. . . Paul Chedda named as Executive Director of Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing. . . Greater Lynchburg Community Trust awards \$8,700 to Central Virginia Homeless & Housing Coalition. . . *Style Weekly* profiles Better Housing Coalition of Richmond's use of HUD funds to make Winchester Green "a model of a new kind of low-income housing". . . Virginia Municipal League to hold 99th annual convention in Alexandria from October 3rd to 5th. . . Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. moves to new quarters at 700 East Franklin Street, Suite 3A, Richmond, VA., 23219. . . Governor Warner awards \$2.6 million in CDBG funds, including \$1.5 million to Caroline County for indoor plumbing, housing rehab and wastewater treatment, \$700,000 to reduce lead hazards in Accomack County and \$1 million to replace or repair more than 50 flood-damaged homes in Buchanan, Russell and Tazewell counties. . . Herb Hill joins VHDA as managing director of planning, policy & communications. . . 43rd Street Festival of the Arts in Richmond's Forest Hills area raises thousands to help Freedom House, a homeless organization, construct a new building. . . *Coalfield Progress* reports that new Ralph Stanley Museum in Clintwood – rehabilitated using CDBG funds – will open in mid-October. . . Roanoke's Southeast By Design revitalization project wins Virginia Municipal League Achievement Award. . . DHCD to offer workshop on "Creating Multi-Family Rental Housing" on October 12th and 13th in Richmond. . . Congressman Virgil Goode and Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services break ground on Piney Ridge Apartments. . . HUD Richmond and ICF Consulting to provide American Dream Downpayment Initiative training to HOME participating jurisdictions on October 27th in Richmond. . . Danville Redevelopment & Housing wins \$250,000 HOPE VI Neighborhood Networks grant. . . Register at 804/862-9201 for Redemption Ministries' November 12th capacity building workshop "Beyond Bake Sales – Marketing Your Non-Profit or Faith-Based Organization" at Virginia State University.

SAVE THE DATE

Registration is now open for the 2004 Governor's Housing Conference from November 15th to 17th at Waterside Marriott in Norfolk. Some 800 housing, economic and community development experts will attend for workshops on tax credits, factory-built housing, property management, accessibility, downtown revitalization, NIMBY and homeownership. Register at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/GHC.htm>.

GOOD TO GO

HUD Richmond has okayed initial closings on the \$18.4 million, 240-unit complex in Isle of Wight County, the \$13.4 million transformation of American Tobacco building in Richmond and Section 811 group homes in Norfolk and Newport News. In fiscal year 2004, HUD Richmond closings totaled \$321.7 million, up from \$283 million in 2003.

DON'T FORGET

President Bush has declared the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond and Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent and Prince George counties eligible for federal disaster aid in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Gaston. Anyone who sustained damage as a result of the storm should contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 800/621-3362.